

Dr Chris Kutarna

Political scientist · Oxford fellow · co-author of *Age of Discovery* · founder of New Geo

Chris doesn't predict the future. He helps a room **see how it sees the future** — what it's paying attention to, what it's ignoring — so that it can have the conversations it needs to be having, but isn't.



Saïd Business School, University of Oxford, May 2025.

KEYNOTES AND SESSIONS

What he is asked to speak about

The moment we're in

Most often Chris is asked to open something: a leadership programme, an offsite, the session before the strategy session. He takes the room through this moment as it looks to people who pay attention to different things, until it notices which views it had been leaving out.

Geopolitics, from more than one side

His doctorate is in Chinese politics and he spent years building a company in China. Not a risk briefing: he sets out how this moment reads from Washington, from Beijing and from the countries caught between them, then asks which of those readings the room's plans take for granted.

Every talk is built with the organiser: who is in the room, what comes before and after, and what people should still be talking about at the next break.

Where the map runs out

Conferences often ask for trends. Chris brings three uncertainties instead — lately AI, geopolitics and growth — and for each, the question everyone is asking, why it is the wrong shape, and the two better questions underneath it. People leave able to see which future their plan quietly assumes.

The conversation your team isn't having

For one leadership team with a decision on the horizon. The talk is the first act. In the second, each person draws the future they are actually planning for, and the team compares maps.

FROM THE PEOPLE WHO BOOK HIM

"You don't just get a monologue, what you get is a dialogue."

Lucy Shaw

Director, Oxford Strategic Leadership Programme,
Saïd Business School, University of Oxford

"We had high expectations and needed this day to be amazing. Chris is an absolute rockstar." **IKEA**

"We are being flooded with messages saying how amazing your talk was." **UPS**

"Board members still quote his insights, because he made the future feel urgent—and full of possibility." **ERICSSON**



Watch the speaker reel
vimeo.com/1154095344



The TED talk, films and more
newgeo.org/speaking

BIOGRAPHY

In fifty words

Dr Chris Kutarna is a political scientist who helps leaders make sense of this moment we're in. He is an Oxford fellow who teaches at Saïd Business School, co-wrote the international bestseller *Age of Discovery*, and works with senior leaders and boards around the world. He is the founder of New Geo.



In a hundred and thirty

Dr Chris Kutarna is a political scientist who helps leaders make sense of this moment we're in. He doesn't predict the future; he helps a room see how it sees the future, so that it can have the conversations it needs to be having, but isn't.

An Oxford fellow, Chris teaches on the executive programmes of Saïd Business School, where he opens the Oxford Strategic Leadership Programme and speaks to around a thousand senior leaders each year. His doctorate, from Oxford, is in Chinese politics, and he spent years building a media company in China. With Ian Goldin he wrote the international bestseller *Age of Discovery*; he is also the author of *How to Basecamp*, and his TED talk is *The search for truth in the social media age*. He is now writing *Uncertain by Design* in the open. He founded New Geo, and is a Canadian living in London.

FORMATS

What you can book

Keynote

30–45 min + questions

For a conference, a large gathering or a plenary, where one talk has to anchor the day or change its direction.

Fireside or emcee

by arrangement

An interview on stage, a dinner, a board evening, or hosting the day itself.

Workshop

90 min to a full day

For a group small enough to work. Chris brings the provocation and the structure; the room works in pairs and small groups, and leaves with its own maps.

Multi-session arc

days to months

A keynote that opens something longer: a day in three blocks, a programme across several months, a leadership team's year.

BOOKS

Age of Discovery (with Ian Goldin; Bloomsbury, 2017). What the last Renaissance was like to live through, and what that says about this one.

How to Basecamp. His field guide to convening: how to gather people around a question none of them can answer alone. It is the method underneath his workshops.



TED, Mumbai, 2019.

KEYNOTES AND WORKSHOPS FOR...

FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

BlackRock, BNP Paribas, Pictet Asset Management, Rokos Capital, Liberty Mutual, CITIC, Bank of China, Development Bank of Japan

INDUSTRY, ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Saudi Aramco, Rolls-Royce, Stena, IKEA, UPS, Unilever, AtkinsRéalis, EDP, Ericsson

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

BCG, EY, DXC Technology, McCann FitzGerald, Law Society of Ireland

GOVERNMENT AND INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

NATO, UK Ministry of Defence, European Patent Office, Prime Minister's Office of the UAE

UNIVERSITIES, CULTURE AND IDEAS

University of Oxford, Peking University, National University of Singapore, British Museum, Ellen MacArthur Foundation, TED, Singularity University

LEADERSHIP NETWORKS AND FORUMS

YPO, Entrepreneurs' Organization, Forward Institute, Oslo Business Forum

ROOMS

From a board of twelve to a plenary of 5,000. Most often: senior leadership teams, executive-education cohorts, partner and client conferences, government and defence audiences.

WORKING WITH CHRIS

One or two briefing calls with the organiser (and the moderator, at a conference); a title and short synopsis to follow. He arrives the day before a conference for technical checks. He has worked with simultaneous interpretation and bilingual materials.

On the day: a hands-free headset microphone and a clicker. Slides are in Keynote, on a Mac. Recording is welcome, provided a copy is shared with Chris.

Travel: from London, worldwide.

Fees: depend on the format and how much preparation it needs.

Photographs: high-resolution files to download, free to use in your proposal.